

LOCAL RULE AND HIGHER TAX URGED

W. D. Mackenzie Tells Congressional Committee Such Action Is Needed.

(Continued from First Page.) District committees for various things. I think it is in the interest of the people that the action of the District committees be in the interest of the people.

No Special Interests. Senator Works also said he wanted to correct the suggestion that favors had been granted to any particular section or class by committees of Congress.

"I am a member of the Senate District Committee and I know we are not interested in any particular section of the city."

Mr. Mackenzie said he gladly conceded that the members of both the Senate and House District Committees are honest, but in the past favors had been granted to the "system" instead of the people.

"It seems to me there is more likelihood of favoritism in cities where local interests are represented in the municipal government. No member of Congress has any particular interest in any section of class here," commented Senator Works.

Soon afterward Mr. Mackenzie aroused A. S. Worthington, of the joint citizens' committee, by saying that the city organizations of Washington are generally selfish.

"The citizens' associations have objectives mainly selfish and local," said Mr. Mackenzie.

Both Mr. Macfarland and Mr. Worthington interjected statements to the effect that citizens' associations are public spirited, taking interest in all civic affairs.

"It was by the action of the Board of Trade," said Mr. Mackenzie, "that the plan was proposed for the extension of the city of Washington."

Worthington interrupted. Despite Mr. Mackenzie's impatient remark that he didn't want further interruptions, Mr. Worthington said:

"It was by the action of the Board of Trade that the plan was proposed for the extension of the city of Washington over the entire District. The Board of Trade presented to Congress the act of 1850, under which the city was carried out and the landowners of the county prevented running the plan of Washington by not going on with the city's subdivisions until it would have been too late to apply a remedy."

"Since you've brought up the subject," retorted Mr. Mackenzie, "let me tell you that the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade represent the plutocracy of Washington, and they want to promote the interests of the few at the expense of the masses."

"Let it be public spirit if you like," he said. "What we want to see is a real democratic government for the benefit of the masses."

Several persons in the rear of the hearing room heartily applauded this statement, which Mr. Mackenzie concluded with the remark: "I mean to get a little heated."

Mr. Mackenzie, in elaboration of his argument that men of influence and power had obtained legislation and appropriations for their benefit, said:

These facts are so notorious I am not going to attempt to prove them. There has been the same opportunity here for "putting things over," as the phrase goes, as there has been elsewhere. I must say, however, there is nothing like that now in our present government.

"Some time ago Robert W. Woolley wrote a magazine article showing how especially privileged men here had bought and streets opened in the suburbs to their own personal and enormous advantage."

Mr. Mackenzie said that Congressman Terrell, then a member of the House District Committee, had bought a house in Washington suburbs and had lighted streets without residences and waiting for the people to come, while he disappeared near the navy yard section without a word.

Senator Chilton asked if values would be raised just as they had been in the past, and Mr. Mackenzie replied that the city council elected by the people, Mr. Mackenzie replied affirmatively.

Well, then, have you any brand of justice you can send to change all that," queried the Senator.

"There are two ways, but, believe things would have been better under a truly democratic form of government," replied Mr. Mackenzie. Mr. Mackenzie said he wanted to see the fact that the era of favoritism had passed and "there is nothing like it now."

Reads Statement. Mr. Mackenzie read a prepared statement outlining the views of the Tax Reform Association. He said, in stating his position:

"The propositions which I advance are as follows: "The form of government and the fiscal system established by the act of June 11, 1850, have done much for the development of the National Capital, but the results have not been entirely beneficial."

"While we all recognize the paramount control and responsibility of Congress in the District of Columbia, municipal self-government is needed so far as purely local affairs are concerned, so that Washington may be made in all respects a modern, healthy city and a worthy capital of the republic."

"Congress has power to grant rights of local self-government to the people of Washington, and there is no valid reason why the residents of this city should be deprived of any valuable political or judicial rights which are enjoyed by their fellow-citizens in all or any of the States of the Union."

"There is a natural line of demarcation between Federal and municipal functions in the National Capital. The United States Government may be equitably adjusted; first, by segregating Federal and municipal expenses, second, apportioning cost according to the relative value of land in the District owned by the National Government and by the residents of the District."

"The present system of taxation and assessment should be changed in order to lighten the burden of taxation on the small home owners of Washington, and especially to prevent any burdensome increase of taxes on the small property owner who is unable to withdraw some portion of the amount now contributed by the Federal Government."

"The comparisons of taxation as between Washington and other cities, as presented in these hearings, have no effect and definite bearing on the problem of how much taxes the District should pay and what proportion the Federal Government should pay."

Piled With Questions. Long before Mr. Mackenzie had finished his brief members of the congressional committee and Mr. Worthington had begun piling him with questions, some of which he refused to answer until he had finished. When he was asked to interrupt, Senator Chilton interrupted that the committee was trying to get at the facts.

Following his arraignment of the

Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade as representing "plutocratic interests," he said, "the citizens of the District do not seem interested in progressive movements, like public ownership. The newspapers here are more or less controlled by public interests, and I hope they make special note of this statement. This present government of Washington is prejudicial to real democratic city life."

Mr. Mackenzie said he had been told by one city editor that he had been ordered to publish nothing against the half-and-half plan, and to "soft pedal" anything for local government. The city editor has since been removed, he said.

"We tax reformers have no kick against the present city government," he said. "Periodically, we think the present Congressmen are giving us an excellent illustration. But we would rather be governed by poorer officers elected by the people."

Must Have Combination. "Don't you think the trend of the times is toward efficiency in city government, no matter how it is secured?" Congressman Cooper asked.

"I think the problem of cities is how to combine democracy with efficiency," Mr. Mackenzie replied. "Let us hold on to all the efficiency we have and make it the efficiency of democracy."

Mr. Mackenzie then painted the distresses of the days of Governor Shepherd and the "feather duster" Legislature.

"Wasn't all that when you had a democratic form of government?" asked Senator Works.

"We had only the shell of it," replied Mr. Mackenzie.

Mr. Cooper picked up an allusion of Mr. Mackenzie to "municipal housekeeping" and asked him to name the details of purely municipal function. Mr. Mackenzie said the schools and charities he regarded as purely local functions, and said the details of the city government.

Mr. Mackenzie continued with his plea for self-government here, and accused the citizens' committee of overlooking this feature. Mr. Worthington said the committee's brief had only quoted from a Supreme Court decision ruling that legislation for the District must be made by Congress.

Asks For Charter. "I would have Congress grant us a charter," said Mr. Mackenzie. "I am sorry that the citizens' committee merely mentioned that Supreme Court decision and did not go on to say that the plan was proposed for the extension of the city of Washington."

Mr. Mackenzie explained that his plan was to have the city affairs turned over to the city and to have Congress pay for the extension of the city of Washington.

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"I know of another home here which the District is answer to its needs." "It is always implied that Congress controls the District," Mr. Mackenzie replied. "It could threaten to revoke the charter, or privileges, of the District."

"Then," laughed Senator Chilton, "you wouldn't have much of the self government you have been asking for. Wouldn't the sword of Damocles, hanging over the head of the District, be pretty far from the self government you advocate?"

MASON SAYS ALLIES SEE NEED OF HASTE

Drive Across Serbia Affects Great Britain More Than Serbs, He Finds.

By J. W. T. MASON.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—The meeting of the Germans and Bulgarians in the northwestern corner of Serbia is a matter that concerns Great Britain far more than it does the Serbs. The invaders have gone through the Iron Gate district of Serbia, not in order to threaten the Serbian army, but to establish a quick route for rushing supplies into Turkey.

The new military development in the Balkan situation therefore can only be countered by rapid concentrations of allied troops, either in Bulgaria or in European Turkey. Germany is now sending supplies to the Bulgarians, and this means a new large army in process of being added to the Austro-German forces.

The German government has perhaps 500,000 excellent fighting men who have been idle during the war because of lack of equipment. Germany can begin to arm these troops and can continue doing so until all are equipped, and then send them to the front.

The munitions for the Turks must move over a route before the Bulgarian railway line to Constantinople is reached. There are about thirty miles of mountainous high ground between the Bulgarian line and the Turkish line, and about 100 miles of road in Bulgaria to be crossed before the line of communication with the Turkish line is reached. The traveling is difficult through Serbia, but with motor trucks at the disposal of the Germans, the journey through Bulgaria to the railway line can be made with some rapidity.

The strong resistance of the Serbs along the Nish railway has forced the Germans to open the mountain roads into Bulgaria. The Nish line is the only Serbian railway which connects with the Bulgarian railway that runs into Turkey. The Serb defense makes it impossible for the Germans to fix a date when through-rail connection can be established with Turkey through Serbia. The Nish railway, therefore, has been established. The challenge to the allies is a serious one, and the effect on Greece and Roumania cannot be satisfactory to the desires of the quadruple entente.

At the present time, the high road route, therefore, has been established. The challenge to the allies is a serious one, and the effect on Greece and Roumania cannot be satisfactory to the desires of the quadruple entente.

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LOCAL AND N. Y. FINANCIAL NEWS

BETTER PRICES RULE ON NEW YORK 'CHANGE

First Easing Off Is Quickly Checked, and Market Becomes Actively Higher.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—Slight improvement in prices and tone marked today's stock market opening. 12,000 shares of Steel selling at 54 and 55, up 1/4 to 1/2. Westinghouse was one point higher, at 72, with American Car and Foundry up 1/2 at 88.

Railroads were generally stronger, Baltimore and Ohio gaining 1/4 at 93 1/2. Reading up 1/2, with Lehigh Valley unchanged at 80.

Bethlehem Steel opened with a sale of 100 shares at 50, off 10 points. Prices eased off at first, but the decline was quickly checked and the market then became actively higher. United States Steel advanced 1/4 to 85, and several railroad stocks made slight gains.

Around noon practically all issues profited by bullish sentiment, though railroad stocks were specially favored. B. & O. sold to 94 1/2; Canadian Pacific to 18 1/2. New York Central to 10 1/2, and Union Pacific to 15 1/2.

Local Bond Market.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

U. S. Reg. 5's..... 101 1/2
U. S. Coupon 5's..... 101 1/2
U. S. Reg. 4's..... 101 1/2
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